

A YOUNG LAWYER'S STRATAGEM

It Might Have Worked but for an Unexpected Incident.

The following story is told of Timothy Coffin, who was for a long time Judge of the New Bedford District, says the Boston Herald:

When a very young man he was retained in a case of sufficient importance to bring out almost every resident of the town, so that the little New Bedford court-room was packed when court opened that morning. Coffin had been secured as counsel by the defendant. Although it was his first attempt in open court, he had made little or no preparation, thinking that he could get through somehow or other when the time came. Thus, when the counsel for the defendant came into court that morning he was greatly surprised and no less agitated to see the big crowd and realize the wide public interest in the trial at hand.

He saw that he had looked upon the case too lightly. The prosecution was strong, and he had made not even a slight preparation. To lose the case meant the loss of a hoped-for reputation. Could he afford to commit this blunder by displaying his ignorance of the case? How could he get out of it? These were a few of the questions that were known to have flashed through the young lawyer's head, for afterward he himself told of the awful perplexity of the hour.

Being a shrewd inventor, he devised a plan. As soon as the court had been called to order and the clerk had said his little say, he arose and asked for a postponement of the trial, on the ground that he had just received a telegram announcing the sudden and fatal illness of his mother, who resided at Nantucket.

Scarcely had the words of this appeal proceeded from the lips of young Coffin, when an elderly woman quietly arose in the balcony of the courtroom and gave utterance to these words: "Timothy, Timothy, how many times have I chastised thee for lying?"

Timothy recognized the sound of that voice only too well. It was that of his mother. This being Timothy's first public case, the old lady had secretly come up to New Bedford to see how well her son would do. Her presence was, of course, totally unknown to him. The further developments need not be recorded here. Suffice it to say that Timothy Coffin in after years made sure that his excuses would not be thrown back at him by any member of his own family.

SUPERSTITIOUS WELSHMEN.

A Redhot Pitchfork Plunged Into a Supposed Witch's Corpse.

An old woman in a village near Salzburg recently died. Her death gave great satisfaction to the other villagers, for she was looked upon as a witch and feared accordingly, says the Cardiff (Wales) Mail. After the funeral several of the chief inhabitants repaired to the Wirthschaft to celebrate suitably the relief experienced at getting this dangerous person safely underground; but while they were drinking pleasantly in came a messenger to say that the cow of one of those present, a neighbor of the deceased, had died suddenly without any apparent cause. The meeting, horror-stricken, adjourned in a body to examine the cow, and unanimously agreed that the animal had been bewitched. No doubts were entertained as to the perpetrator or of the deed. Evidently burying was not enough to stop this dangerous old lady and it was decided, after earnest discussion, to adopt the old plan of making a horse jump over the witch's grave and thus put an end to her powers.

A horse was accordingly fetched, but, strange to say, nothing would induce him to jump over the grave. This incontestable proof of the unholy influence emanating from the spot caused the public excitement to increase. The Mayor of the village decided to use a somewhat drastic means, much in favor in the middle ages, namely—to stab the witch's body with a redhot pitchfork. The body was exhumed, the fork heated and the whole ceremony carried out.

By the time the company had finished their work and gone back to refresh themselves at the Wirthschaft, the authorities of the neighboring town had heard of what was going on. A party of mounted police were sent to the village and all those who had been concerned in the affair were taken into custody.

Waiting for Dead Men's Shoes.

Waiting for dead men's shoes is an old proverbial expression, and in connection with army officers and their wives still has a remarkable significance. Said an officer's wife a few evenings since: "I do dislike to take up an Army Register and scan the personals to see if anyone outranking the Captain is ill, or to keep an eye upon the old officers and figure out when they will be retired. But I'm not as bad as some others. Why, they get life insurance tables and study mortality probabilities to see when an officer may be promoted by reason of death among officers outranking him. If some officers die as they should according to rule, the Captain will be a general before he is 60 years old. Isn't it a mean business to think about? But we get paid back, for when my husband is old all the rank and file will be indulging in the same kind of speculation, and wondering why old General Blank doesn't die."—Cincinnati Tribune.

Sam's Cunning.

An old Chicago lady who was making jam was called upon by a neighbor.

"Sam, you rascal," she said to her negro servant, "you'll be eating my jam when I'm away."

Sam protested he would die first; but the whites of his eyes rolled hungrily toward the bubbling crimson.

"See here, Sam," said the old lady, taking up a piece of chalk—"I'll chalk your lips, and on my return I'll know if you've eaten any."

So saying, she passed her forefinger over the chalk lips of the darky, holding the chalk in the palm of her hand and not letting it touch him.

When she came back she a'd not need to ask any question, for Sam's lips were chalked a quarter of an inch thick.—Philadelphia Post.

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GROSSDALE
30 minutes' ride upon the C. & N. W. R. R., is situated on a branch of the Des Plaines River, and skirted by a natural forest. Prices of lots \$100 and up. One-tenth cash, balance monthly payments; long time.

Dauphin Park
A delightful 30 minutes' ride along the lake shore, passing the World's Fair Grounds. Fast becoming the leading residence subdivision on the South Side. Calumet electric street-car pass through the property and connect with Cottage Grove avenue cable. Illinois Central and many other railroads pass property. Lots \$250 and up. One-tenth cash, balance monthly payments; long time.

GROSS PARK
Bounded by Robey street on the east, Western avenue on the west, Cornelia street on the north, and School street on the south. This subdivision is almost solidly built up. There are some choice bargains still to be had here. Lots \$500 and up. Same terms as Dauphin Park and Grossdale.

Humboldt Park
The new subdivision, now on the market, lies between Division street, Homan, North and Kedzie avenues. This property is surrounded by beautiful boulevards, and fronts one of Chicago's most popular parks. Lots \$500 and up. Same terms as above.

AVONDALE
This addition, which adjoins my famous Under-the-Linden addition, lies between the C. & N. W. R. R., at Avondale station, and Milwaukee avenue. Seven hundred lots were sold in this and adjoining subdivisions the first three months the property was on the market, and it is now well and substantially built up. Lots \$400 and up. All bargains. Same terms as above.

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